

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 20 were rejected as unpatentable over HARRISON 6,301,572 in view of BECHHOEFER et al. 6,567,757. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The courtesy afforded the applicant's representative during the telephone interview on January 27, 2006 is acknowledged with thanks. During the interview, applicant's representative pointed out that the applied art did not disclose or suggest at least the step in which defects are introduced into the reference aircraft. The Examiner noted that this claim language has been interpreted to include defects that appear due to normal operation. Applicant's representative suggested that the claims could be amended to recite that a defective (replacement) part is being introduced to more positively recite the step of introducing defects. The Examiner and his supervisor stated that this would present a new issue requiring further consideration and/or search. Accordingly, the claims are being amended generally as discussed at the interview in this amendment that is filed in conjunction with an RCE. Consideration of the present amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The amended claims provide, among other features, that a defective replacement part is being introduced into the

reference aircraft. Support for the amendment is found, by way of example, at page 1, beginning at line 10.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest introducing a defective replacement part in conjunction with the other steps of the claims. Further, the introduction of a defective replacement part is not an event that occurs during normal operation of an aircraft. One of skill in the art would not knowingly introduce a defective replacement part into an aircraft, absent the suggestion of the present inventor to do so in order to detect a defect in another aircraft.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-470

TWP/lk